

Message Text

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46

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 5027

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, BTIO, ECRE, EINV: KU

SUBJ: DISNEYLAND AND OTHER RECREATION PROJECTS

REF: A) KUWAIT 4990 B) KUWAIT 4651 C) KUWAIT 4558

D) KUWAIT 2425

1. ON NOV. 22, EMBOFFS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DISNEY PROJECT WITH KHALED AL-MARZOUK, CHAIRMAN KUWAIT TOURISM AND RECREATION CO. MARZOUK, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO US SAYS HE MET WITH DISNEY EXECS IN LOS ANGELES AND HAS RECEIVED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL FROM THEM TO CO-OPERATE WITH HIM ON KUWAITI PROJECT. AS FIRST STEP MARZOUK SAID HE WOULD BRING SAME COMPANY WHICH HELPED WITH FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PLANNING OF DISNEYLAND AND DISNEY WORLD TO KUWAIT IN ORDER HAVE THEM EVALUATE MERITS OF PROJECT HERE. WHEN EMBOFFS EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM THAT KUWAITIS WOULD TRY TO BUILD ANYTHING AS AMBITIOUS AS DISNEYLAND HERE, MARZOUK INDICATED NOT ONLY DID HE INTEND TO DO JUST THAT, BUT HE WOULD MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER NEXT MORNING TO PROJECT STATUS REPORT. MARZOUK STATED KUWAIT KTTTC WAS FORMED AT PM'S REQUEST AND WANTED GET MOVING ON DEVELOPING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR COUNTRY ON NON-PROFIT BASIS.

2. COMMENT: REFTELS HAVE REPORTED ON SEVERAL PROJECTS

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UNDER CONSIDERATION IN KUWAIT WHICH WOULD GREATLY EXPAND

KUWAIT'S MEAGRE RECREATION AND TOURISM FACILITIES. BESIDES KUWAIT VERSION OF DISNEYLAND, PLANS UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDE SEVERAL NEW HOTELS WITH THE ADDITIONAL DINING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THEY PROVIDE, AN "OLYMPIC VILLAGE", AND EVEN AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE TO BE CREATED BY BUILDING A DAM ACROSS A SMALL BAY WEST OF KUWAIT CITY. BELIEVE THESE PROJECTS LIKELY PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR US ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS AS WELL AS A BROAD RANGE OF EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS. (SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SKIDMORE, OWINGS, AND MERRILL WORK CLOSELY WITH MARZOUK AND LIKELY TO BE PART OF ANY PROJECT WITH WHICH HE ASSOCIATED).
STOLTZFUS

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